



2 August 2024

Dear Sisters and all Josephites,

THREE DAYS' PRAYER FOR DANIEL DUGGAN

There are many situations which Pope Francis says require [prayerful action](#). A person in a situation of great concern to us is **Daniel Duggan** who is facing extradition to the United States on very questionable grounds.

You may recall [Hugh Fagan](#), who was considered a violent criminal and was charged with the murder of Patrick Bannon in 1877 in Port Augusta, South Australia. At his trial Fagan was found guilty and sentenced to death. Whilst in jail he was visited by St Mary MacKillop and was greatly moved by her prayers and concern for him. He repented and was visited by a priest before being hanged on 16 April 1878. Mary offered to climb the scaffold with him but the authorities would not allow it.

Hugh Fagan was guilty of the crime of murder and the authorities of the time administered the law as it stood. In wholehearted concern for the good of that man, Mary MacKillop was willing to stand beside him to the end.

Daniel Duggan was born in America but became an Australian citizen on 26 January 2012. He has been accused by the United States of training Chinese fighter pilots. He has broken no Australian law and yet has spent nearly two years in prison, most of it in maximum security with long periods of solitary confinement. Lawyers, aviation managers and experts in global political issues recognise that the matter has far more to do with the relationship between the United States and China than any supposed threat that Mr Duggan could present. The alleged offences happened over 12 years ago and numerous other people and groups were engaged in the same types of aviation training activities for Chinese nationals but have not been accused or charged. Nevertheless, the Australian government is considering extraditing him soon to the US where he could face decades in jail. (Despite the last sentence in [this article](#), there is still hope, though not for long.)

Daniel Duggan is caught up in current political realities that are affecting the general compliance of Australia with US desires and the challenges to both the US and Australia posed by China. The matter goes to the heart of Australian democratic rights and the responsibilities of those with political power.

We can stand with Daniel Duggan and his family. We can pray for him, as Mary MacKillop did for Hugh Fagan.

Would you join with us and many others in praying for Mr Duggan? As a concerted effort, we could say the following prayer beginning on Tuesday 13 August and ending on Thursday 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption.

O God, we pray for Daniel Duggan, his wife and six children, and all those connected to decisions that may send him to jail in the United States for decades. We pray that the judgements made will be based on humanity, mercy, the full truth and the common good. Amen.

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